



Name : Sunadhar Nayak

Village : Bendraguda,

Block : Boipariguda, District: Koraput

Age : 35 years

Caste : Bhumia (ST)

Occupation : Farmer (2 acres)

Family size : 8 (5 adults, 3 children)

Written by **Max Authur Gill**,
Project Assistant, FSN study under LANSAs.

Higher finger millet yield with better cultivation practices

I am a small farmer having 2 acres of upland and cultivate only in Kharif season. I mainly grow paddy, finger millet and little millet. In 2016, staff from the LANSAs project of M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation visited our village and shared improved agricultural practices of finger millet that gives increased production. They conducted a two-day training programme at the MSSRF Regional Centre, Jeypore and there was a field visit to finger millet fields in Chikima village in Bodaput Gram Panchayat. The farmers of that village shared their experience with us. Earlier, I used to broadcast finger millet seeds in my 0.3 acres upland, and the yield was between 100 – 115 kg. Harvest used to last only for 7-8 months and for the remaining months I had to buy finger millet from the market. There was no alternative as finger millet is our staple food and all the family members eat it on a daily basis.

In 2017, I applied the methodologies learned during the training on my 0.3 acres land by following line transplanting, proper plant spacing, timely weeding and recommended dose of fertilizers. Yield from the same patch of land went up to 200 – 220 kg. Few other farmers of my village who followed the improved method of finger millet cultivation also saw higher yields. Now, I am self-sufficient and not dependent on the market for my finger millet.

